



Attorney Docket No.: 4642

6/1  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT:** Watkins

**GROUP:** 1762

**SERIAL NO:** 09/464,997

**EXAMINER:** K. Bareford

**FILED:** December 16, 1999

**FOR:** METHOD FOR APPLYING SYNTACTIC FOAM THERMAL  
INSULATION TO A LENGTH OF PIPE [as amended]

**RECEIVED**

Mail Stop RCE  
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

OCT 03 2003  
TC 1700

Sir:

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL**

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114

a.  Previously submitted

- i.  Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_
- iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

b.  Enclosed

- i.  Amendment/Reply
- ii.  Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10**

I hereby certify that this Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on September 29, 2003 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EL94185889US addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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*Tanya Bellanti*  
Tanya R. Bellanti

2. Miscellaneous

a.  Suspension of action of the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)

b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a.  RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)

b.  Three-Month Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§1.136 and 1.17)

c.  Other:

4. Fee Payment

a.  Check in the amount of \$840.00 enclosed.

b.  The Director is hereby authorized to charge the above fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-0079.

c.  The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper or any paper filed in connection with this Patent Application, or refund any overpayment to our Deposit Order Account No. 19-0079.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick O'Shea

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Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated March 27, 2003. A petition for an extension of time is enclosed herewith extending the response period to Monday, September 29, 2003.

Please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Cancel claim 18 and amend claims 1, 5 and 9 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of applying syntactic foam insulation to a length of steel pipe configured for use as a component in a sub-sea pipeline, said method comprising the steps of:

co-extruding an inner syntactic foam insulator and an outer thermoplastic protective cover

around the length of steel pipe; and